

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7803

Petition of Vermont Gas Systems, Inc., for approval)
of a Successor Alternative Regulation Plan)

Order entered: 12/6/2011

PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM AND SCHEDULING ORDER

This Docket concerns a petition filed on September 30, 2011, by Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. ("VGS" or the "Company"), for approval of a successor alternative regulation plan (the "Proposed ARP").¹ On November 16, 2011, I convened a prehearing conference in this Docket. Notices of appearance were entered by the following individuals: Louise Porter, Esq., on behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service (the "Department"); John H. Marshall, Esq., Downs Rachlin & Martin, PLLC, on behalf of VGS. At the prehearing conference the parties provided a proposed schedule that contemplated two separate filing dates for the Company's direct testimony. The first filing was intended to deal with the Proposed ARP, while the second filing was to deal with VGS's proposed base-line cost of service for the Proposed ARP. The Board has decided to hear directly the Company's cost-of-service case in a separate docket. Accordingly, I hereby adopt the parties' proposed schedule, subject to modifications that reflect the Board's decision to hear the cost-of-service case separately:

December 6, 2011: VGS files direct testimony in support of the Proposed ARP.

December 16, 2011: Workshop with Board Staff.

December 19, 2011: First round of discovery due to be served on VGS.

December 23, 2011 Deadline for intervention motions to be filed.

1. In keeping with the Company's existing alternative regulation plan, VGS filed notice with the Board on December 30, 2010, of its intent to exercise its option to extend its current plan for two years. Therefore, the alternative regulation plan now in place for VGS is due to expire on September 30, 2013.

January 6, 2012:	VGS to respond to first round of discovery.
January 9, 2012:	Period begins for informal discovery on VGS.
January 31, 2012:	Period ends for informal discovery on VGS regarding prefiled testimony supporting the Proposed ARP.
Week of February 15, 2012:	Public Hearing.
March 14, 2012:	Parties other than VGS to file direct testimony regarding the Proposed ARP.
March 21, 2012:	First round of discovery to be filed regarding direct testimony filed on March 14, 2012.
April 4, 2012:	Responses to discovery propounded on March 21, 2012.
April 20, 2012	VGS to file rebuttal testimony.
April 27, 2012:	Discovery to be served on VGS's rebuttal testimony.
May 9, 2012:	VGS to respond to discovery propounded on April 27, 2012.
May 18, 2012:	Parties other than VGS file surrebuttal testimony.
May 23, 2012:	Discovery to be filed on surrebuttal testimony filed on May 18, 2012.
June 1, 2012:	Responses to discovery propounded on May 23, 2012.
Week of June 11, 2012	Technical hearings regarding the Proposed ARP.
July 9, 2012	Direct briefs and proposal for decision due.
July 23, 2012	Reply briefs due.

At this time, the schedule identifies provisional dates for the public hearing and the technical hearing in this docket. In light of the Board's decision to hear the cost-of-service case in a separate docket, it is possible that these dates will be changed to facilitate the efficiency of consolidated hearings for both the ARP docket and the cost-of-service docket.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 6th day of December, 2011.

s/ June E. Tierney
June E. Tierney, Esq.
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: December 6, 2011

ATTEST: s/ Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)